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OCA 86- 0574
26 February 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/OCA

FROM:

SA/LD/OCA

SUBJECT: Diplomatic Security Act (H.R. 4151): Executive
Hearing before the International Operations
Subcommittee, House Foreign Affairs Committee

1. The Diplomatic Security Act is the Administration's legislative response to terrorists threats against U.S. diplomatic installations worldwide. Briefly, H.R. 4151 would: (1) set forth the responsibility of the Secretary of State with respect to the security of all diplomatic operations; (2) give the Secretary the authority to convene "accountability review boards" to investigate serious injury, loss of life or significant property destruction at missions abroad, and (3) authorize about \$4 billion over the next five years to implement material security.

2. This legislation was derived from the recommendations in the so-called Inman Report on overseas security. The first Diplomatic Security Act bill (H.R. 3946) was introduced in December of 1985. A number of provisions were troublesome to the CIA as well as other agencies - NSA, Secret Service, DoD, DIA, Commerce and USIA. It sparked a round of negotiations culminating in H.R. 4151, which satisfied the concerns of the Agency. In its current form, we support H.R. 4151, and it has been referred to the International Operations Subcommittee of House Foreign Affairs for action.

3. Chairman Mica of the International Operations Subcommittee called a hearing on the bill for 20 February 1986. Testifying were State, USIA and AID. Because compartmented information was going to be discussed, the Chairman closed the hearing. At that point he announced that the House leadership had given the "green light" on the bill; floor consideration is scheduled for the third week in March.

4. Soon after the Subcommittee went into executive session they talked dollars and cents as well as threat levels at specific locations. All members of the Subcommittee were astounded by the projected costs to implement material

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25X1 security. For example, [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED] Another topic

Subcommittee members dwelled on was the high cost of construction. The State Department witness testified that the requirements of other agencies drives up costs. In passing he

25X1 5. Clearly, the tone of the hearing was non-adversarial and frequently Chairman Mica was solicitous of the witnesses to help him pass this bill. He needed ammunition to convince other Congressmen, unfamiliar with diplomatic security needs, to vote for the bill. Above all he needed cost justification for the special requirements for embassies. All of the witnesses pledged their cooperation for the simple reason that it is required for the bill to pass. [REDACTED]

25X1 6. After the hearing a State witness introduced me to Chairman Mica. Mica said he wanted to meet with us and wanted our assistance to help pass the bill. Specifically, he needed justification for the high costs of embassy security. Moreover, he said that he is going to contact Chairman Hamilton of HPSCI for advice in this matter. [REDACTED]

25X1 9. Improved embassy security will necessarily improve Agency missions to operate more effectively. Moreover, the new bill, H.R. 4151, meets all of our concerns. I recommend that we meet with Chairman Mica and attempt to be as helpful as possible. [REDACTED]

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